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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/580,236

05/23/2006

Yoshihito Kawamura

2006-0784A

1946

513 7590 09/19/2008

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.

2033 K STREET N. W.

SUITE 800

WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

IP, SIKYIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1793

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/19/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/580,236	Applicant(s) KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Sikyin Ip	Art Unit 1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group 1 is, claim(s) 1-7, 10-12, and 31, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, and

(1) $0.5 \leq a < 5.0$;

(2) $0.5 < b < 5.0$; and

Y. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (1) to (3). (3) $2/3a - 5/6 \leq b$.

Group 2 is, claim(s) 8 and 9, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, and rare-earth element.

Group 3 is, claim(s) 13, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, and

(4) $0 \leq c \leq 1.0$ and

Nd. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5). (5) $0.2 \leq b+c \leq 6.0$.

Group 4 is, claim(s) 14, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5) or (5) and (6).

(4) $0 \leq c < 2.0$;

(5) $0.2 \leq b+c \leq 6.0$; and

(6) $c/b \leq 1.5$.

Group 5 is, claim(s) 15, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, Nd, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) to (6) or (6) and (7).

(4) $0 \leq c \leq 3.0$;

(5) $0 \leq d < 2.0$;

(6) $0.2 \leq b+c+d \leq 6.0$; and

(7) $d/b \leq 1.5$.

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Group 6 is, claim(s) 16-22 and 25-27, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, and Y. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (1) to (3).

$$(1) 0.25 \leq a \leq 5.0;$$

$$(2) 0.5 \leq b \leq 0.5; \text{ and}$$

$$(3) 0.5a \leq b.$$

Group 7 is, claim(s) 23-24, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, and rare-earth elements.

Group 8 is, claim(s) 28, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, and Nd. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5).

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(5) 0.1 \leq b+c \leq 6.0.$$

Group 9 is, claim(s) 29, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5).

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(5) 0.1 \leq b+c \leq 6.0.$$

Group 10 is, claim(s) 30, drawn to magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, Nd, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) to (6).

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0;$$

$$(5) 0 \leq d \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(6) 0.1 \leq b+c+d \leq 6.0.$$

Group 11 is, claim(s) 32, 33, and 42-48, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, and Y with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (1) to (3).

$$(1) 0.5 \leq a < 5.0;$$

$$(2) 0.5 < b < 5.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(3) 2/3a \cdot 5/6 \leq b.$$

Group 12 is, claim(s) 34, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, and Nd with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5). (5) $0.2 \leq b+c \leq 6.0.$

Group 13 is, claim(s) 35, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5) or (5) and (6).

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$$(4) 0 \leq c < 2.0;$$

$$(5) 0.2 \leq b+c \leq 6.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(6) c/b \leq 1.5.$$

Group 14 is, claim(s) 36, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, Nd, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) to (6) or (6) and (7).

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0;$$

$$(5) 0 \leq d < 2.0;$$

$$(6) 0.2 \leq b+c+d \leq 6.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(7) d/b \leq 1.5.$$

Group 15 is, claim(s) 37-38, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, and Y with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of elements have

$$(1) 0.25 \leq a \leq 5.0;$$

$$(2) 0.5 \leq b \leq 5.0; \text{ and}$$

to satisfy expressions (1) to (3). (3) $0.5a \leq b$.

Group 16 is, claim(s) 39, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, and Nd with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5). (5) $0.1 \leq b+c \leq 6.0$.

Group 17 is, claim(s) 40, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) and (5).

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(5) 0.1 \leq b+c \leq 6.0.$$

Group 18 is, claim(s) 41, drawn to a method of producing magnesium alloy contain Mg, Zn, Y, Yb, Tb, Sm, Nd, La, Ce, Pr, Eu, Mm, and Gd with steps of casting and plastic working. The contents of elements have to satisfy expressions (4) to (6).

$$(4) 0 \leq c \leq 3.0;$$

$$(5) 0 \leq d \leq 3.0; \text{ and}$$

$$(6) 0.1 \leq b+c+d \leq 6.0.$$

The inventions listed as Groups 1-18 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or

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corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The Mg alloy compositions and expressions and steps as set forth above in each group are not the same. Unity does not exist between Groups 1-18.

The inventions listed as Groups 1-18 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Claims 1-12, 16-33, 37, 38, 42-48 are obvious in view of Abe et al (search report) accordingly the special technical features linking the groups do not provide a contribution over the prior art and no single inventive concept exists.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sikyin Ip whose telephone number is 571-272-1241.


The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, from 5:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy V. King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sikyin Ip/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

September 15, 2008

<div>Application Number</div> <div></div>	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/580,236	KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sikyin Ip	1793	